

Hawaii

I. Pleasure-Loving Islanders of the North Pacific

By Richard Curle

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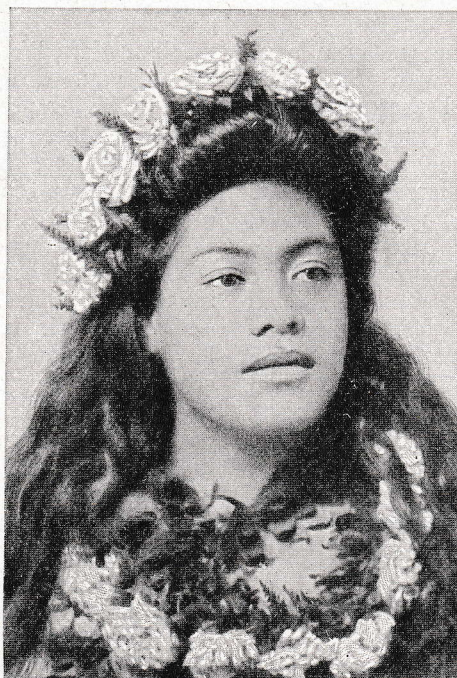
THE Hawaiian Islands, which now rank as a territory of the United States of America, are a chain of eight inhabited and several uninhabited islands lying just within the northern tropics of the Pacific Ocean. The inhabited islands stretch for a distance of 380 miles, but if the uninhabited islands, which have no value save for guano deposits and shark-fishing grounds, are included, that distance is increased by several hundred miles. Honolulu, the capital town, is about 2,100 miles from San Francisco.

The total area of the inhabited islands is 6,651 square miles, divided as follows: Hawaii, 4,210 square miles; Maui, 728; Oahu, 600; Kauai, 547; Molokai, 261; Lanai, 139; Niihau, 97; Kahoolawe, 69. The islands are all of volcanic origin and contain forty volcanic peaks. The greatest volcano—indeed, the greatest volcano in the world—is that of Mauna Loa (Great Mountain), in Hawaii, which is 13,760 feet high, with a base circumference of 75 miles. It erupted a dozen times between 1832 and 1907. Actually the highest peak in the islands is that of Mauna Kea (White Mountain), in

Hawaii, which reaches to 13,805 feet. The upper surface of the mountains, which is hidden in snow, is one huge mass of lava, and they contain great caves, caused by lava flows, whose crust formed quickly, 60 feet to 80 feet in height and sometimes several miles in length.

The pure-bred Hawaiians (often called Kanakas in the past), a race of almost copper-coloured people, with brown or black hair, which is straight or curly, and with very large eyes, are fast dying out. There were probably about 250,000 of them at the time of Captain Cook's discovery (the navigator's

own estimate was as high as 400,000), but the census of 1832 put the number at 130,000, the census of 1878 at 44,000, the census of 1900 at 30,000, and the census of 1920 at 23,700. The reasons for this decline are various. The Hawaiian mothers, up to recent times, took little care of their children, the islands have been ravaged by small-pox and measles, leprosy has claimed many victims since it was introduced from China in 1853, and drink and venereal diseases have also decimated the population. But it must be

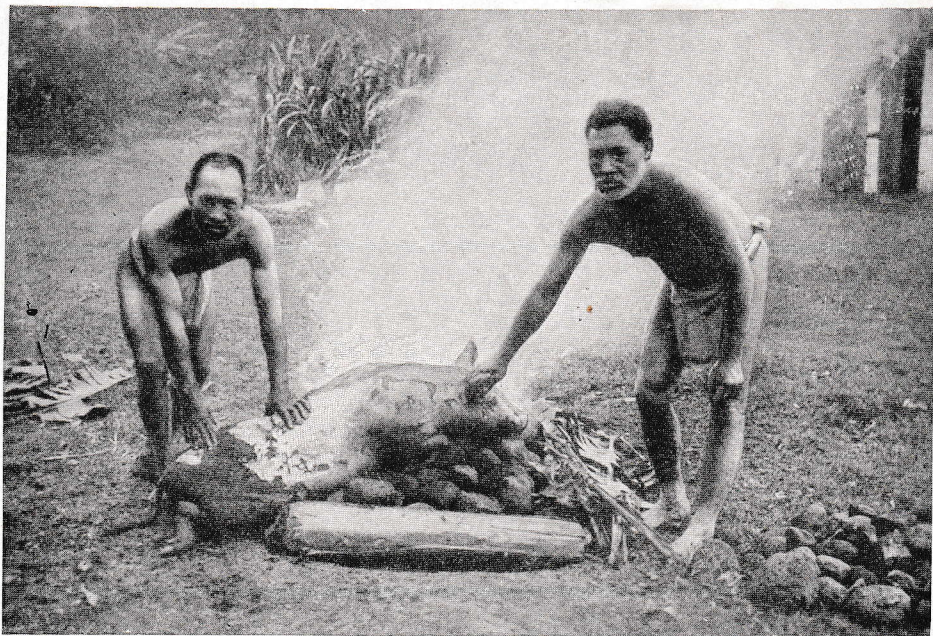


FLOWER-WREATHED COQUETRY

Their love for flowers is the Hawaiians' most engaging characteristic. Every girl wreathes her pretty head with living blossoms and wears great ropes of them on neck and bosom

Photo, R. M. Clutterbuck

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PREPARATIONS FOR A GARGANTUAN BANQUET

Luaus are a favourite form of social entertainment among the Hawaiians—general feasts to which all the participants contribute some of the comestibles. Pigs roasted whole are a standing dish on these occasions, and a native chef and his assistant are here shown cooking one camp-wise on hot stones over a fire made in an earth oven. These luaus are usually gluttonous orgies

Photo, R. M. Clutterbuck

remembered that the natives have inter-married freely with Europeans and other races, and that while the Hawaiian death-rate is the largest in the islands, the part-Hawaiian birth-rate is also the largest. In 1878 there were only 3,420 part-Hawaiians, in 1920 there were 18,000. If the Hawaiian strain is to survive it will be in a mixed form. The total population of the islands is now about 260,000, of which Oahu with 124,000, Hawaii with 65,000, Maui with 36,000, and Kauai with 29,000, are by far the most populous. A strange conglomeration of races inhabits the islands, which have become, indeed, very cosmopolitan. Apart from the Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians, there are, among others, about 80,000 Japanese, 27,000 Portuguese, 23,000 Chinese, 21,000 Filipinos, 10,000 Americans, 5,500 Porto Ricans, and 2,500 Spaniards.

It is remarkable, considering this, how distinct the Hawaiians have kept their national customs, and how deeply they have impressed what one may call their national personality upon the

whole modern life of the group. They are a gay, thriftless, amiable, and pleasure-loving people, who blend very well with other races. The higher class Hawaiians have become Europeanised in many ways, especially in the matter of clothes and social usages, but even they are tenacious of their own heritage.

There is a natural streak of poetry in the Hawaiians, and this finds an outlet in their love of flowers—they have a passion for decorating themselves and their guests with leis or wreaths of flowers—and in their love of dancing and music. In fact, the hula, as the native dance-festival is called, is one of the chief national pleasures. Both sexes are passionately fond of riding and bathing. They play many games, throwing into the performance of them all the exuberance of their buoyant natures. Wrestling, surf-riding, spear-throwing, a kind of bowls played with stone disks, and hill-gliding are some of their principal delights. This last game calls for special comment. A smooth track, either of cobblestones or dry grass, is

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made down the side of a steep hill for a distance of perhaps half a mile, and the Hawaiians shoot down it face forward on a sledge set on hard-wood runners twelve to fourteen feet long, two to three inches deep, and placed some four inches apart. It is an exciting sport and rouses them to the utmost pitch of enthusiasm.

On all their games they gamble recklessly, both men and women being quite ready to wager everything they possess. This proclivity of theirs for gambling has caused much distress and is a national failing.

The Hawaiians of the poorer class are largely employed on sugar and other plantations. The native dwellings are constructed of wood, or are mere huts thatched on the sides and top with grass. Most of the cooking is done outside. Their favourite dish is poi, which is called "one finger" when thick, and "two finger" when thin. Poi is made from the taro root boiled till soft and then pounded up and mixed

with water, and allowed to ferment for a few days. They are also very fond of pork, raw or cooked fish, sweet potatoes, and fruits. In olden days one of their chief delicacies was a special breed of dog fed exclusively on poi. The natives still delight in luaus, or feasts, for which different people provide different things, and after which no participator is fit for any work for some days. The tables are spread with fern leaves, and such dishes as poi, fish wrapped in sweet ti leaves and cooked in underground ovens (or imus), pigs roasted whole, a thick flavouring paste made of pounded kukui nuts, yams, bread-fruit, etc., are consumed in vast quantities.

As for clothing, the women, who still do much of the work, wear the holoka, a loose garment with sleeves, reaching from the neck to the feet. On their heads they wear coloured handkerchiefs or straw hats. Long ago the general wear was bark cloth made from the paper-mulberry and dyed in various colours. The Hawaiian language is musically



KANAKAS POUNDING TARO ROOT FOR MAKING POI

What macaroni is to the Italian poi is to the Hawaiian, a favourite and a staple food. It is prepared by boiling until soft the large tuberous rootstock of the taro plant which is rich in starchy matters, pounding it, mixing it with water, and allowing it to ferment. It is called "two finger" or "one finger" according to whether it is made thick or thin



HAWAIIAN FAMILY GATHERED TOGETHER FOR DINNER

Their dwelling is a somewhat unsubstantial hut with walls and roof of thatch, and their domestic equipment, like their wardrobe, is scanty. But they are a well-favoured and contented family party who obviously enjoy and thrive upon their frugal fare of poi eaten as it is cooked, picnic fashion in the open air, and a kind of natural grace distinguishes both their manner and their manners

Photo, Underwood Press Service

soft and seems strangely suited to the psychology of the people. The Hawaiian character has, indeed, something child-like about it that is very charming. When work stops at four in the afternoon the Hawaiians begin to taste the full flavour of existence. They are a histrionic race, and this love of the dramatic finds vent in their liking to present tableaux from their legendary history. Life is to them a light-hearted affair, and the beauty of their islands and their climate is reflected in their attitude towards the world.

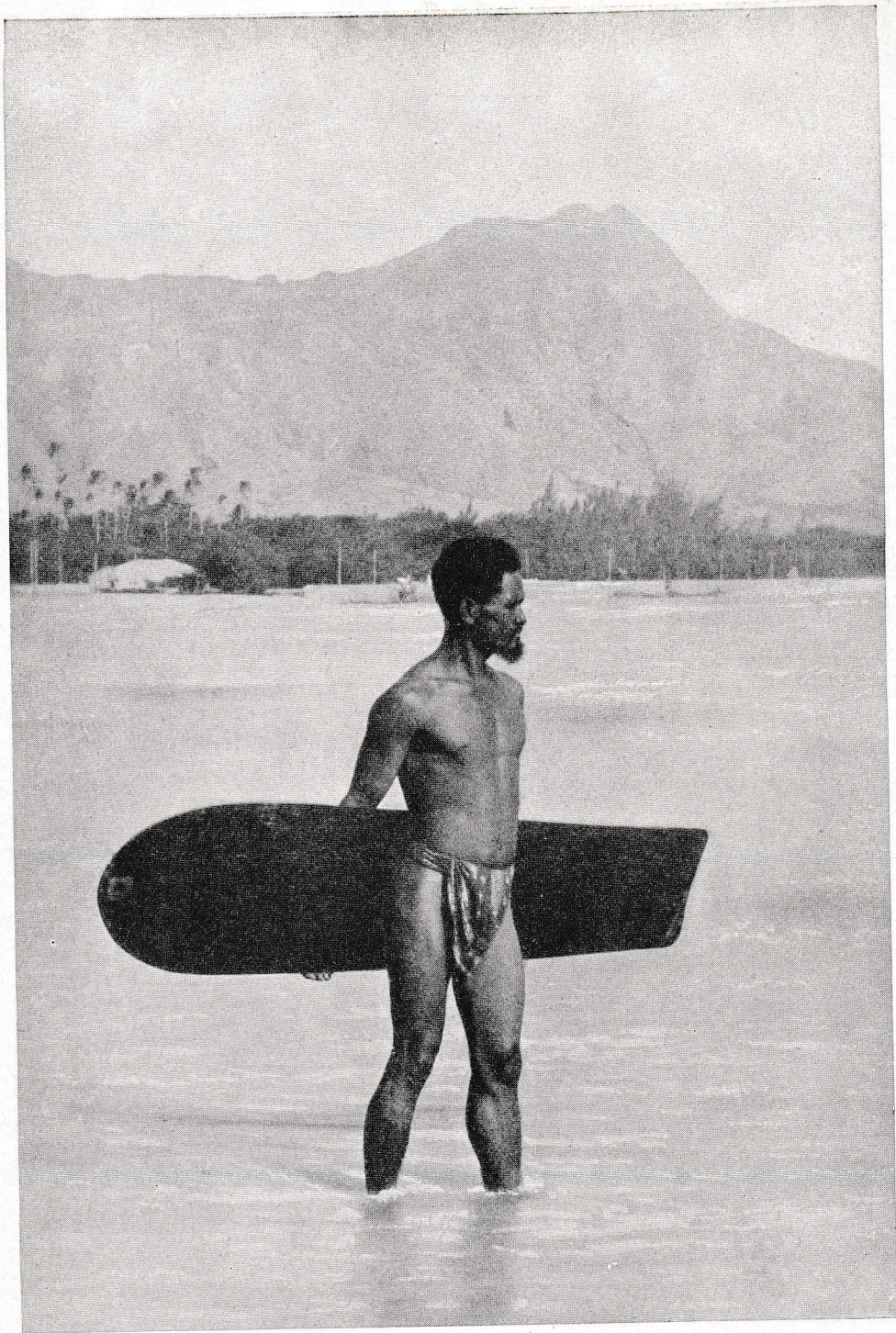
Very little is known authentically of the early history of the Hawaiian Islands before Captain Cook discovered them in 1778. He called them the Sandwich Islands, after John Montagu, fourth Earl of Sandwich, then First Lord of the Admiralty, and that is their alternative name to this day. Although Captain Cook was killed in Kealahou Bay, Hawaii, in the following year, his industry had already discovered much about the customs of the islanders. The old Hawaiians, who were true Polynesians and probably migrated to



HAWAIIAN MISS HORNER EATING HER FAVOURITE POI

Fingers were made before forks, and are still preferred to any other implement by the Hawaiians for the purpose of eating poi. The agreeable flavour of this national dish is indicated by the gratified smile of this lady who has just pulled out a mouthful from her generous helping, while its nutritive value is attested by the very ample proportions of her still youthful figure.

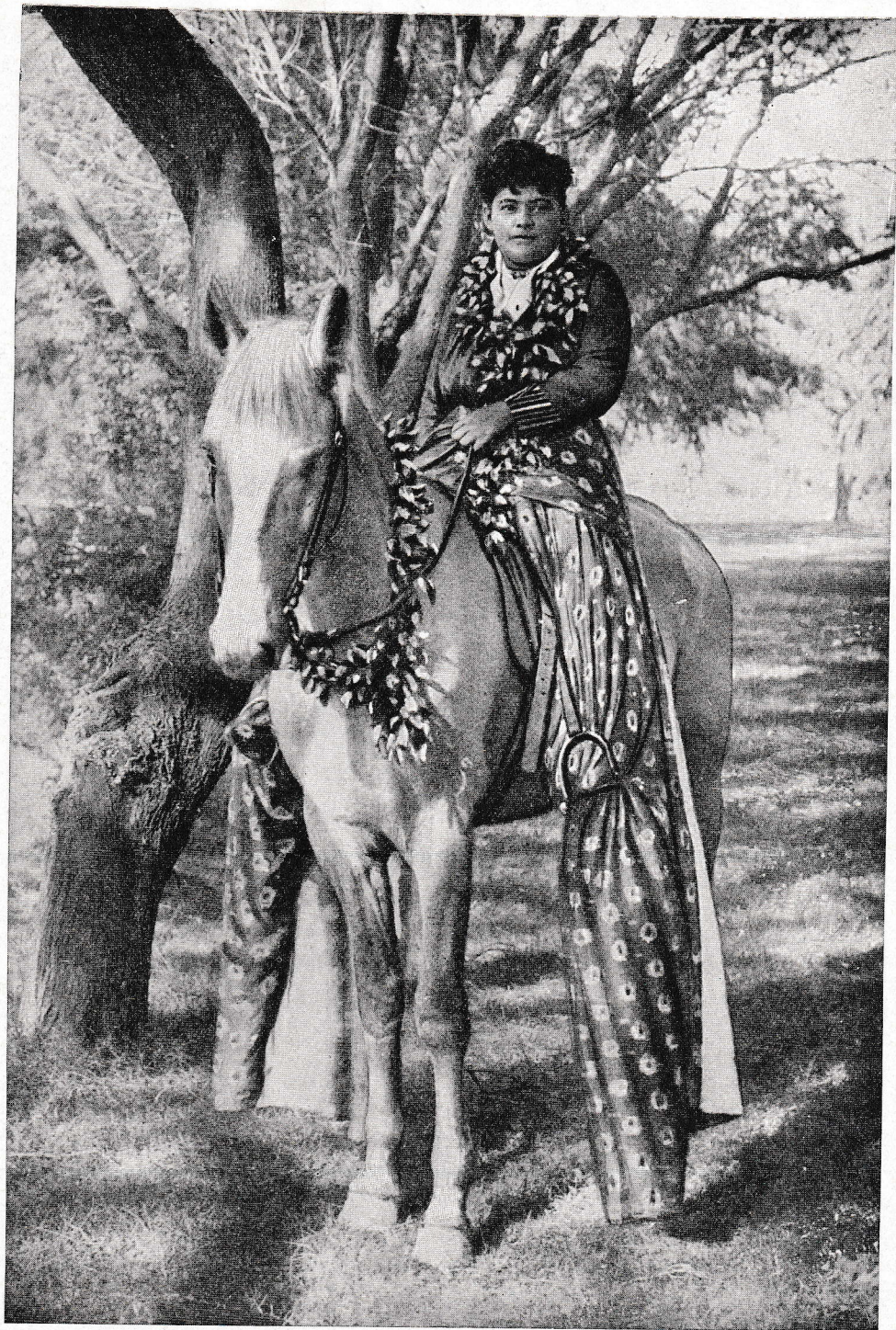
Photo, R. M. Clutterbuck



HAWAIIAN RIDER OF THE WAVES AND HIS SURF-BOARD

Hawaiians take to the water from infancy as naturally as young ducks, and throughout life are devoted to bathing and sporting in the sea. Surf-riding is a favourite pastime of natives of both sexes and all ages. Swimming out beyond the break of the waves they get on to their surf-boards and balancing themselves with astonishing skill are brought in on the rollers shouting and laughing

Photo, R. M. Clutterbuck



DIANA GOES RIDING IN DIVIDED SKIRTS

Conventional decorum could suggest no fairer compromise between breeches and riding-habit than is effected by this Hawaiian lady who, while riding astride conceals both legs within such flowing drapery. The wreaths around her own and her horse's neck are evidence of her native love of floral decoration, and she betrays truly feminine consciousness of the attractive picture she makes in the dappled light



WHERE GOOD DIGESTION WAITS ON APETITE, AND HEALTH ON BOTH

Hospitality is comparatively inexpensive for the pleasure-loving Hawaiians since it is the custom for all the guests to contribute something to the banquet provided for the common enjoyment. The cloth, of matting, is spread on the ground and decorated with fern leaves, and the menu includes enormous quantities of poi, fish cooked in sweet ti leaves, pigs roasted whole, and preparations of nuts, yams, and bread-fruit. After a luau, the guests are often incapacitated for work for several days

Photo, R. M. Clutterbuck



LONGSHOREMEN HAULING IN THEIR SEINE ON CORAL-BOUND HAWAII

Fish abound round the shores of the Hawaiian Islands, and besides being taken at sea are kept in artificial ponds in the coral bays. They include species remarkable for the brilliance of their colouring, and provide an important part of the food supply of the population. These fishermen well exhibit the latitude of custom in respect of men's dress in Hawaii, some of them wearing a costume of coat and trousers with collar and tie, while others are virtually naked

Photo, R. M. Clutterbuck



ELIGIBLE DANCING MEN OF HAWAII IN CORRECT MASCULINE BALL COSTUME

Draped from waist to ankle in skirts of bark cloth and with frayed palm leaves twisted round their neck and thrust into their girdle, these mature Kanakas are participating in the hula dance, of which the men, like the women, of these enchanting islands never tire. A theatrically appropriate background for the evolutions of the dance is provided by the tropical ferns and palms, with flowers rioting everywhere, filling the place with heady fragrance and dazzling the eye with colour

Photo. R. M. Clutterbuck

HAWAII & THE HAWAIIANS

Hawaii in the tenth century, were a pleasant and superior race as Captain Cook found them—his murder at their hands was almost in the nature of a deplorable accident—but their religion and taboos were attended with hideous cruelty.

Religion required human sacrifices, and the breaking of taboos, which were often trivial—for example, women were not allowed to eat bananas, coconuts, pork, turtle, and certain kinds of fish—was followed by death. But there were

chiefs, who were much superior in physique to the ordinary people, were divided into three classes. The first consisted of the royal family and its connexions, the second of the hereditary governors of islands and other such exalted officers, the third of village headmen, rulers of districts, and so on.

When Captain Cook arrived it seems that the islands were split up into three kingdoms—Hawaii, Oahu, and Maui. King Kamehameha of Hawaii (1736-1819) conquered the other two kingdoms



PRELIMINARY MOVEMENT OF A HAWAIIAN DANCE

The island of Hawaii offers a variety of colourful amusement, but none so whole-heartedly enjoyed as the dance. Clothed chiefly in flowers and foliage, with anklets, necklets, and wreaths of living sweet-smelling blossoms, the native women sway gracefully to and fro, their seductive dances being well in keeping with the enchantment of the idyllic surroundings

Photo, R. M. Clutterbuck

in Hawaii two cities of refuge, where murderers and taboo-breakers were safe, and to which old people and children used to retire during war-time. The Hawaiians believed in a second soul and in ghosts. They had four principal gods—besides many lesser ones—and those were: Kane, father of men and founder of the world; Kanaloa, his brother; Ku, the cruel one; and Lono, to whom the annual New Year games were dedicated.

The form of government was an absolute monarchy—it was death for a common man to stand even at the mention of the king's name—and the

and became king of the whole group. He made two Americans his advisers, encouraged foreign trade, grew rich, and consolidated his position. His son, Kamehameha II., was a friendly, mild-mannered man, but he had not the energy of his father, and he and his wife died from measles during a visit to England in 1825. It was during his reign, in 1820, that American missionaries started their work in the islands, and it is curious to note that in 1825 the Ten Commandments were acknowledged as the basis of Hawaiian law.

Kamehameha III. ruled from 1825 till 1854. A constitution was promulgated



"DANCING'S A TOUCHSTONE THAT TRUE BEAUTY TRIES"

Dancing, music, and flowers are the three things dearest to the heart of the Hawaiians, and all three are gratified in the hula or native dance. These girls are waiting to take their place in the dance. Their costume, of grass and leaves and blossoms, displays their shapely limbs yet suggests nothing of immodesty, but rather the elusive beauty that belongs to water nymphs and dryads

Photo, R. M. Clutterbuck

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in 1840 and the legislature met for the first time in 1845. A new constitution was promulgated in 1852. Kamehameha IV. ruled from 1854 till 1863, and his brother, Kamehameha V., from 1863 till 1872. A third constitution was promulgated in 1864. Lunalilo, a grandson of Kamehameha I., reigned from 1872 till 1874, and he was succeeded by Kalakana, who longed to enlarge his dignity and sought to obtain the primacy of the Pacific.

A queer sort of visionary, Walter M. Gibson, was his Prime Minister from 1882 till 1887, and the discontent of the islanders precipitated itself into a revolution during the latter year through the discovery that the king had accepted two bribes of \$75,000 and \$80,000 for the assignment of an opium licence. This revolution was successful:

the king signed a proper constitution and dismissed his unpopular minister. However, it was not long before he was again intriguing, and it was perhaps fortunate that he died in San Francisco, whither he had gone for his health, in 1891.

He was succeeded by his sister, Liliuokalani, who foolishly attempted to force another constitution on her people. The Americans stepped in to save the lives and property of American subjects, and a Republic was declared in January, 1895, over which Sanford P. Dole became President. He was the only President Hawaii ever had, for on Aug. 12, 1898, the islands were formally annexed to the United States. Since then peace has taken the place of turmoil, and it may safely be said that few more successful attempts at colonising have been achieved than the government of the Hawaiian Islands



"BEAUTY FAIR IN HER FLOWER"

The bounteous kind of handsomeness possessed by Hawaiian women generally is well exemplified in this native belle, together with the intelligence and the mildness of temper that make her people the most likeable of all the Polynesians

by the United States. The first sight of the Hawaiian Islands from the sea gives one no true idea of their deep appeal. There is something desolate in the view of these immense mountains descending sharp to the water's edge and tipped with snow or clouds. But inland there is enchanting and ever-changing beauty, and there are wonderful scents of stephanotis, ginger, and plumarina. The rocks are covered with creepers; flowering shrubs, such as hibiscus, abound; waterfalls are numerous; and view upon view opens out with majestic loveliness and exotic splendour.

Hawaii itself, although it has no town bigger than Hilo with its 10,000 inhabitants, is not only by far the largest of the islands, but by far the most attractive. It offers endless variety of scene and almost endless variety of climate. Its volcanoes are

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among the wonders of the world—the crater of Kilauea, for instance, has a circumference of eight miles—and when the lava is flowing there are sights, more especially in the dark, of inexpressible strangeness and beauty. The lava will spout up in fountains a thousand feet high and will flow in streams, sometimes a mile and a half wide, at a speed of ten miles an hour.

In Kapiolani Park, Honolulu possesses a fine open space of 125 acres, where flowering trees and palms may be seen to exquisite advantage.

The Hawaiian Islands possess practically no indigenous mammals, and they are also singularly free from snakes, but they have wonderful birds in their forests and wonderful fish around their shores and in their coral bays. The most



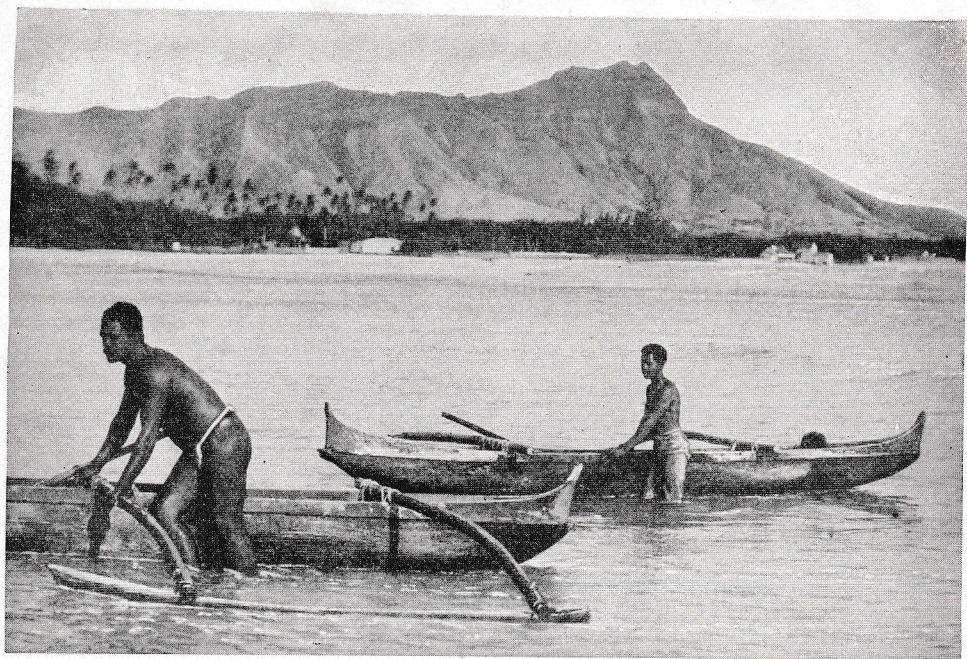
HAWAII UNDER THE PAINTED ORIEL OF THE WEST

Over the wind-ruffled water, for a moment lightened by the last rays of the sun ere advancing clouds bring with them the dusk of night, the lonely boatman plies his solitary paddle. The frail outrigger skims the surface to where, beyond the palm-fringed strand, lights gleam and wink from the windows. The last bird flutters to roost, somewhere a brown girl softly laughs, and from the distance comes the throb and cry of a eukalele

These will spread out, gradually forming pools and lakes, over which gleams and spurts of fire play mysteriously in the night.

Honolulu, the capital town in Oahu, is an up-to-date city of 83,000 people, with electric tramways and modern buildings. It lies along the shore on a level strip of land about a mile broad and seven miles long, and extends back into five valleys amid hills that rise to nearly 4,000 feet. Private gardens line the streets and the houses have each their vine-clad verandas, called canais, which are almost more used for living in than the houses themselves.

famous birds are probably the mamo, now very rare and seldom found outside of Mauna Loa, and the iiwi, a song bird. It was from these two birds respectively that the royal cloaks of yellow feathers, tipped with scarlet feathers—of which examples may be seen in the British Museum—were made. Such coats are now of fabulous value. There are in the islands no fewer than three hundred varieties of land-snail and five hundred varieties of beetle, eighty per cent. of which last are unknown elsewhere. As for plants there are something like a thousand species, including seventy kinds of seaweed, which the natives use



BRINGING ASHORE THE HARVEST OF THE BLUE PACIFIC

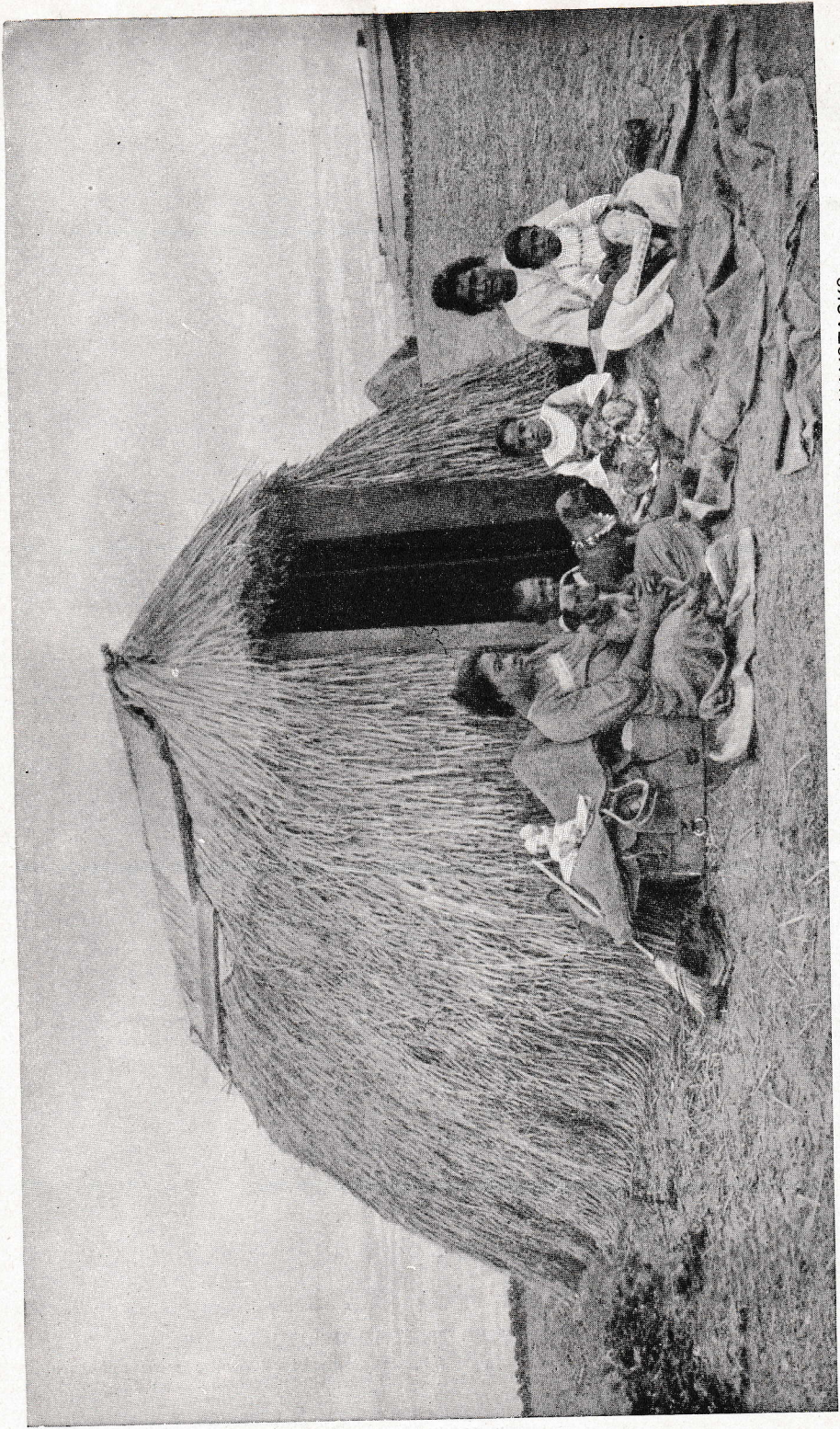
The long roll of the ground swell aids the Hawaiian fisherman to beach his well-laden outrigger. The waves that can sweep and tower and crash like charging cavalry upon these sun-lit sands are here but gentle helpmates to these swarthy toilers of the sea with their bronze skins agleam with the wet. Soon the shore will bear glinting heaps of silver fish, and the catcher will get his due



TWO DUSKY SIRENS OF THE HONOLULU SHORE

Steel guitars with six wires and smaller four-stringed eukaleles are the best known of Hawaiian musical instruments. The photograph shows a form of duet with the first. One player plucks out the melody while the other, holding her instrument across her knees and pressing down the wires with a steel bar, thrums an accompaniment. A plectrum will be noticed on the thumb of the accompanist

Photos, R. M. Clutterbuck



FAMILY HAPPINESS SHELTERED IN HOUSES THAT LOOK LIKE HAYSTACKS

Grass huts like this are tending to disappear from the Hawaiian Islands, and are now found only in out-of-the-way places. Poor though these homes are there is little squalor about them, for all the cooking is done outside, so that no fireplace is needed indoors, and all the meals are taken in the open air. Thus the hut is virtually only the family dormitory, sufficiently ventilated by the doorless aperture at one end

Photo R. M. Clutterbuck

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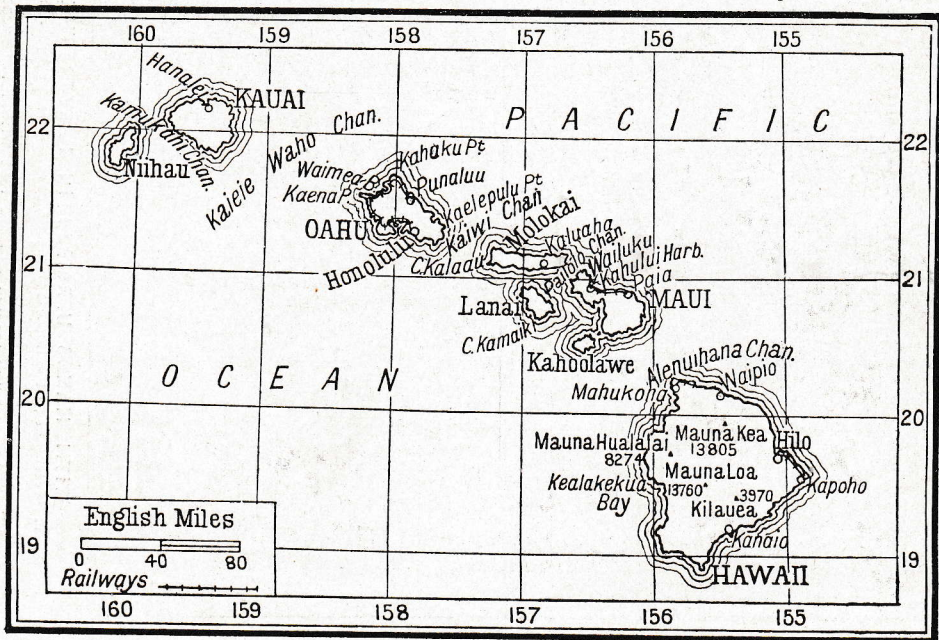
as a relish. The forests contain many varieties of trees. The islands are not rich in minerals, though they contain deposits of pumice, sulphur, gypsum, and alum, and it is from agriculture that they have grown prosperous. Certain crops do remarkably well, and, indeed, sugar, which is the main crop (it was first planted there in 1835), yields from thirty to forty tons an acre, which is a world's record. Coffee, tobacco, rice, and sisal of fine quality are also grown, and bananas are even reared amid the lava of the hill-sides. Pineapple cultivation and the canning of pines have made great progress. The tins for the canning are made locally, and one factory is in a position to turn out 100,000 tins in an hour.

Under the monarchy a complicated system of land tenure prevailed throughout the islands, but this has been simplified and brought more into line with modern requirements. There are 1,850,000 acres of private lands, 876,000 acres of Crown lands, and 830,000 acres of Government lands. The islands have been made accessible by many fine roads, and in the four principal ones there are, besides, 350

miles of railway. There are also 650 miles of sugar plantation railway.

The Hawaiian islanders are outwardly, at least, the most adaptive of people, and it is that, added to their natural intelligence and mildness, which has enabled them to accept civilization with so good a grace. They are a tolerant people, and so long as they are permitted to enjoy their island-life without undue interference they are, perhaps, rather indifferent about abstract ideas on liberty. This they own quite sufficiently in fact not to bother endlessly about it in theory.

They are a finely built race—many of the women in particular are handsome in a large, bounteous sort of way—and their zest for life is keen. They belong to the happy races of the earth, and existence has been made easy for them through the natural richness of the soil and the sea. If, as a body, they have neither the intelligence nor the vigour of the Maoris, a people of Polynesian stock in New Zealand, they are nevertheless far ahead of most Polynesians. Indeed, if we regard life mainly as an experiment in enjoyment, the Hawaiians must be ranked among the most favoured peoples on this planet.



THE UNITED STATES TERRITORY OF HAWAII



WITH HANDS UPRaised IN PRAYER THE CONGREGATION FACE THE HOLY KAABA IN MECCA'S MOSQUE

Ritual is developed to the highest point of elaboration in the Mahomedan religion, and every attitude and gesture in the ceremonial is strictly prescribed. This is almost equally true of social observances in daily life, and the fact explains the enormous difficulties that beset the non-Moslem who would seek to penetrate into Mecca and Medina and set foot within the great Mosque. Detection would entail instant death, for honour and reward await any Moslem who discovers an infidel within the Holy Places